



# RETROACTIVE

September 13 - October 25, 1986

I am indebted first and foremost to the seven artists who made this exhibition possible. For their suggestions, insights, and friendship I also wish to thank Bill Arning and Craig Keller.

Catherine Howe  
Curator

Cover: Michael Corris, Decomposition (after Alfred Barr), 1983.

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Michael Corris  
Katharine Kuharic  
John Franklin  
Don Freeman  
Paul Laster  
Tyler Turkle  
Gordon Voisey

Catherine Howe, Curator

H A L L W A L L S

Katharine Kuharic

## John Franklin

All of John Franklin's objects have a dual nature. They seem to be informed by a number of modernist notions, (a fetishistic relationship to materials, a found-object sensibility, a privileging of unconscious motivations, etc.) yet they simultaneously undermine such conventions with a subtext of pragmatism.

Franklin's *Trojan Warrior* is most interesting in its relationship to surrealist notions of the found object. Whereas the surrealist object's meaning was located in unconscious associations, Franklin's object is imbued with meaning simply through visual resemblance. This superficiality of "content" is reinforced by the placement of the object on a "backdrop" which shares its physical properties to excess, and calls for a purely formal reading of the entire piece. Fortunately, the work succeeds equally well as a sarcastic employment of the found-object and an elegant attempt at minimalist presentation.

Although the duality of Franklin's work might suggest a certain duplicity in regard to the viewer, the contradictions it preserves are far too subtle to confirm this suspicion.



John Franklin, *Trojan Warrior*, 1985, pie plate and silver leaf on aluminum, 18 x 12".  
Courtesy of the artist.

**Michael Corris**  
Resident: New York City  
Education: Maryland Institute of Art, Hoffberger School of Painting, Baltimore, MD, M.F.A., 1972. Brooklyn College, B.A. 1970.

**Katharine Kuharic**  
Resident: New York City  
Education: School of Visual Arts, New York, N.Y. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA., B.F.A., 1984.

**John Franklin**  
Resident: New York City  
Education: Cal Arts, M.F.A., 1984. The University of New Hampshire, B.S., 1978.

**Don Freeman**  
Resident: New York City  
Education: Academy of Art, San Francisco, 1981 Northern Arizona University, B.S., 1979.

**Paul Laster**  
Resident: New York City

**Tyler Turkle**  
Resident: Tallahassee, Florida  
Education: Mount Union College, B.A., 1970

**Gordon Voisey**  
Resident: New York City  
Education: Nova Scotia College, Halifax, Canada, M.F.A., 1979. University of Manitoba School of Art, B.F.A., 1976.